

THE

שפ"א

SHEKEL



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Volume 50 No. 4, October November December 2017

“WE ARE ALL JEWS”



A STORY OF HEROISM



-
- Featuring:*
- Adam and Eve on Coins and Medals
 - The Meaning of Lulav and Etrog
 - “Ancient” and Dutch Fantasy Coins
 - Canadian “Judaea Capta” Motif

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Articles and Letters to the Editor are invited to be submitted to The Shekel Editor, Mel Wacks.

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THE SHEKEL

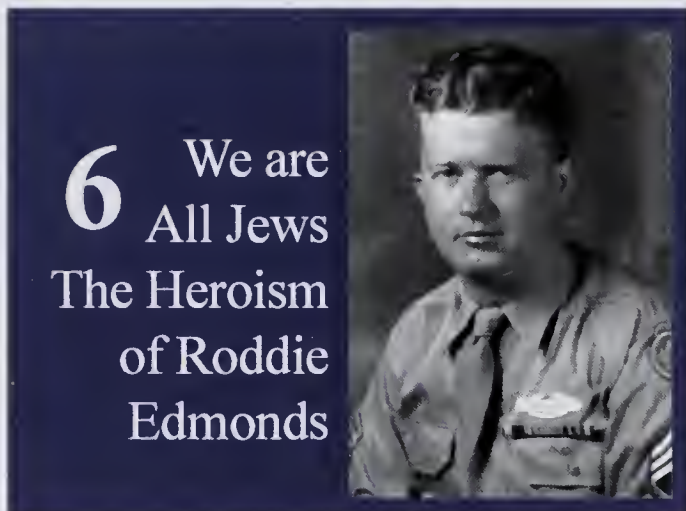
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MEL WACKS, EDITOR

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Coming Next Month Catalog of AINA Membership Medals



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

First, I want to thank you for your membership—and I hope you will renew for 2018. The first issue of the Shekel for 2018 will feature the first-ever catalog of AINA Membership Medals. Over the years, these annual medals have been remarkably diverse—featuring designs ranging from Ancient Judaeon coins to the Statue of Liberty. AINA Membership Medals are collected far beyond AINA members, and can often be found on ebay at prices of \$10 or more. But our members have received them free—including the 2018 medal that will feature the official logo of Israel's 70th anniversary of independence. Renew today so that you don't miss this important Judaic medal.



Even though I have contributed articles to the Shekel ever since the first issue in 1968, this is the first time that I am serving as editor. Andy Peralá has done a great job over the past eight years, but his

health problems continue to cause delays in getting the Shekel out in time, and so I am stepping in. I am following in the footsteps of our talented past editors—founding editor Nat Sobel, George Gilbert, David Alexander, Ed Schuman and Andy Peralá. I would appreciate your feedback saying how I am doing, and I would greatly appreciate if you would send articles to me at ainapresident@gmail.com. Don't worry if you think you are not a great writer—I will be happy to edit your article.

It's not too early to start thinking about visiting the AINA table at the American Numismatic Association's World's Fair of Money at the Philadelphia Convention Center from August 14-18, 2018. I would love to see you there, and have a chance to schmooze.

Lastly, please consider giving AINA memberships as gifts to anyone from teenagers to seniors. The Shekel is a beautiful, informative and entertaining magazine that many of our members read from cover to cover. And you don't have to be a coin collector to truly enjoy it.

Wishing you a Very Happy New Year!

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PALESTINE BANKNOTE

5 Palestine Pounds, 1939 #B932021; VF
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Number One Money Man Judaica



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(TETRAGRAMMATON)**

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FIRST AFRICAN-AMERICAN STATE TREASURER, A. DUBUCLET of LOUISIANA, PAY WARRANT of 1877: AN AFRICAN-AMERICAN, A. DUBUCLET SPENT 10 YEARS as LOUISIANA STATE TREASURER and was the ONLY OFFICE HOLDER PERMITTED to REMAIN during the BATTLE of LIBERTY PLACE. A. DUBUCLET'S PAID SEAL is FEATURED on this CERTIFICATE.
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“WE ARE ALL JEWS”

THE HEROISM OF MASTER SERGEANT RODDIE EDMONDS

Compiled by Mel Wacks



The obverse of the medal honoring Roddie Edmonds features Yad Vashem, Israel's official memorial to the victims of the Holocaust, that's dedicated to preserving the memory of the dead, honoring Jews who fought against their Nazi oppressors, and Gentiles who selflessly aided Jews in need. The surrounding inscription is "WHOEVER SAVES ONE LIFE, IT IS AS IF HE SAVED THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE." The reverse pictures hands pulling a barbed wire rescue line that rotates a globe, as the deeds such as those performed by the rescuers make the world go around.

Photo courtesy of www.rodiedmonds.com/blog.

Master Sergeant Roddie Edmonds (August 20, 1919–1985) of the 422nd Infantry Regiment in the United States Armed Forces was the fifth American and the first American serviceman from World War II to be recognized as Righteous Among the Nations for his rescuing Jewish servicemen at the Stalag IXA POW Camp in Germany.

Roderick W. “Roddie” Edmonds was born in South Knoxville, Tennessee, and graduated from Knoxville High in 1938. Edmonds participated in the landing of the American forces in Europe and was taken prisoner by Nazi forces on 19 December 1944. Together with other American POWs, including Jews, he was taken to Stalag IXA, a

Continued

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*Photo courtesy of the Edmonds family,
via Yad Vashem.*

camp near Ziegenhain, Germany, and sent to a prison camp. As the senior noncommissioned officer Master Sergeant Edmonds was responsible for the camp's 1,275 American POWs.

Sometime in January 1945 the Germans announced that all Jewish POWs in Stalag IXA were to report the following morning. The camp commandant ordered Edmonds to tell only the Jewish-American soldiers to present themselves at the next morning's assembly so they could be separated from the other prisoners. Instead, Edmonds ordered all 1,275 to assemble outside their barracks. The German commandant rushed up to Edmonds in a fury, placed his pistol against

Edmonds' head and demanded that he identify the Jewish soldiers under his command. Instead, Edmonds responded "We are all Jews here," and threatened to have the commandant investigated and prosecuted for war crimes after the conflict ended since the Geneva Conventions required prisoners to give only their name, rank, and serial number — religion was not required — should any of Edmonds' men be harmed. The commandant backed down. Edmonds' actions are credited with saving up to 200 Jewish-American soldiers from nearly certain death.

Edmonds survived 100 days of captivity, and returned home after the war, but never told his family of his actions.

His wife gave his son, Baptist Rev. Chris Edmonds, a couple of the diaries his father had kept while in the POW camp. Rev. Edmonds began researching his story, locating several of the Jewish soldiers his father saved, who provided witness statements to Yad Vashem. Among the Jewish-American POW servicemen who were saved was Sonny Fox, American television host and executive, who witnessed, and in interviews speaks of, Edmonds' heroic act.

On February 10, 2015, Yad Vashem recognized Master Sergeant Roddie Edmonds as Righteous Among the Nations. Chris Edmonds received the

Continued



Rev. Chris Edmonds accepted his father's Righteous Among the Nations award at the Embassy of Israel in Washington, D.C.

Continued

Righteous medal and certificate of honor from the Israeli ambassador, Ron Dermer, and Yad Vashem Council Chairman, Rabbi Lau on his father's behalf at a ceremony attended by the President of the United States, Barack Obama, on January 27th 2016.

Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev said "...Edmonds seemed like an ordinary American soldier, but he had an extraordinary sense of responsibility and dedication to his fellow human beings."

In an effort to continue sharing his dad's story, Edmonds had to quit his job in Knoxville at YOKE Youth Ministries. "I had to step away

because I couldn't do both," he said. "I couldn't do justice to what was happening in the world with my dad's story as well as serve middle school kids."

Although he misses that job, he has a lot of work planned for the future of his father's legacy. "I'm speaking across the country about my dad's story, sharing his faith," Edmonds said. "Also, there's a book or two in the works... and hopefully a movie."

Rev. Chris Edmonds is currently seeking to have his father's bravery recognized with the Medal of Honor. □

Bibliography: Wikipedia,
www.yadvashem.org,
www.roddieedmonds.com

BANK OF ISRAEL'S NEW BANKNOTES FEATURE WOMEN POETS

*NIS 20 AND NIS 100 BILLS HAVE
IMAGES OF HEBREW-LANGUAGE
POETS RACHEL BLUWSTEIN AND
LEAH GOLDBERG*

None of the Israeli shekel banknotes currently in circulation — which come in denominations of NIS 20, 50, 100 and 200 — feature women. The

NIS 10 bill issued in 1985 featured a portrait of former prime minister Golda Meir, until it was removed from circulation in the 1990s.



Meir was also featured on the 10,000 shekel bill prior to the replacement of the shekel with the new Israeli shekel in 1985. Numerous women were featured on the Israeli pound before it was supplanted by the shekel in 1980.

Continued



The new NIS 20 banknote. Photo courtesy of the Bank of Israel.

Continued

The new NIS 20 note's design is red and will have an image of Rachel Bluwstein — known in Hebrew as Rachel the poetess — and the back of the bill will contain words from her poem “Kinneret,” known in English as the Sea of Galilee, alongside a picture of the shore of the same lake. Written while she was dying of tuberculosis, the poem recalls her heady youthful days at Kibbutz Degania, on the south shores of Lake Kinneret (the Sea of Galilee), between 1909 and 1913.

Perhaps it was never so.

Perhaps

I never woke early and went to the fields

To labor in the sweat of my brow

Nor in the long blazing days

Of harvest

On top of the wagon laden with sheaves,

Made my voice ring with song

Nor bathed myself clean in the calm Blue water

Of my Kinneret. O, my Kinneret,

Were you there or did I only dream?

Continued

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The poem is from Anthology of Modern Hebrew Poetry, Institute for the translation of Hebrew Literature and Israel Universities Press, 1966. Translated from the Hebrew by A.C. Jacobs.

The new NIS 100 is orange and bears the portrait of Leah Goldberg, one of Israel's most acclaimed poets and writers. Goldberg was born in 1911 in Königsberg in Prussia (today Kaliningrad in Russia) and moved to Tel-Aviv in her twenties. The back of the bill will have an image of deer with an excerpt from her poem "White Days":

*White, long days, like the sun's rays
in summer
Long, solitary peace on the*

riverfront,

*Windows wide open to azure silence
Straight, tall bridges between
yesterday and tomorrow*

*Your silence, empty white days,
Is so easy to bear;
See, my eyes have learned to smile.
They long ago stopped
rushing the slender ones on the
clock face.*

*My heart got used to itself, it counts
softly its beats
And to the sweetness of the soft
rhythm, is pacified, yields and calms
down
Like a baby singing his own lullaby
before closing his eyes
once the tired mother had shut hers,
fell asleep. ♪*



The new NIS 100 banknote. Photo courtesy of the Bank of Israel.

HUNDERTWASSER



Frederich Hundertwasser was born Friedrich Stowasser in Vienna in 1928, to a Protestant father and a Jewish mother. After his father's death, his mother reared the artist in her family's Jewish traditions, a circumstance that during World War II placed his life in peril. In 1938, the German army entered Austria, and life dramatically changed for the Jewish citizens there. Elsa's sisters, brothers, and many other relatives were killed by the Nazis. He survived the Nazi annexation of Austria thanks to his mother, who made him wear a swastika armband and enrolled him in the Hitler Youth in 1942. She was Jewish but he had had a

Catholic baptism: "I was safe because I was classified as a half-Jew, and my Jewish mother was safe because she had a half-Jewish son."

Throughout WWII, Elsa and Frederick lived in fear that they would be discovered as Jews and killed. It was during this stressful time that Hundertwasser began to deliberately draw from nature. His pictures show only beautiful scenes, almost fairy-tale like, and totally ignore the horrible circumstances that were truly around him at the time. He also created printed graphics, architectural designs, tapestries, etc.

Continued



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In 1991, Hundertwasser designed a colorful transparent gambling chip for Casinos Austria featuring an inscription of 14 characters. Two colors, blue and green, were used for this inscription. According to the mathematical law of complete induction, the use of two different colors for 14 letters yields 16,384 possible color combinations. Of these 16,384 possibilities, 84 were selected for printing purposes. For the front and back were therefore 84

designs available. This gives $84 \times 84 = 7056$ combinations. By additional twisting of the two sides against each other by 5 degrees, it multiplies the color possibilities by 7,056. Thus, theoretically 508,032 different chips could be created. However, a far smaller limited edition were produced by HAT (Hirsch Advanced Technology Entwicklungsges.m.b.H), Klagenfurt, Austria. The Museum Hundertwasser was established in Vienna in 1991, and Hundertwasser died in 2000. ▢



Apartments designed by Hundertwasser in Vienna in 1983-5.



Hebrew edition of "Hundertwasser, The Artist with Five Skins," by Pierre Rastany.

THE MEANING OF THE LULAV AND ETROG

By Myra Outwater via www.breakingmatza.com

Like most Jewish ceremonial items, the *lulav* (palm branch, myrtle, and willows) and the *etrog* (citron) have philosophical meanings. The ancient rabbis spent many hours discussing and trying to interpret the words and meanings of each law. And through the centuries, they have handed down various interpretations of the symbolism of the lulav and the etrog.

One popular rabbinic teaching is that the four components of the lulav and the etrog, which are called in Hebrew the *arba minim*, symbolize the human condition and one's relationship with God. The etrog is shaped like the heart, and the lulav like the spine. The myrtle leaves are shaped like the eyes, and the willow leaves like the lips. Together, these four elements show that one should serve God with his or her heart, spine or body, eyes and lips.

There is another symbolic layer of meaning related to the etrog and lulav and two forms of Jewish



sacred action: study and good deeds. The etrog, which has a good taste and a good smell, is like those who know the Torah and do good deeds. While the lulav which has a good taste, but no smell, is like a person with knowledge, but who does no good deeds. The myrtle, which has a good smell and no taste, is like a simple person who has no knowledge and learning, but

Continued

Continued

is innately kind and caring. Lowest on the rung of human values is the willow, which has neither taste nor fragrance, and symbolizes those people with no interest in gaining knowledge and no innate sense of responsibility towards others and no feeling of the need to help others.

Each day during Succot, blessings are recited over the etrog and the lulav. The etrog is held in the left hand the lulav in the right hand. Then the lulav is shaken in six directions (north, south, east, and west, up and down) to remind us that God is everywhere.



In order to protect and adorn the ceremonial objects used on Succot, there is a special box used to store the etrog and a case in which to carry the lulav. Since traditional Jews believe that an etrog must be as perfect as possible, the etrog is carried to services in an etrog box in which there is usually a cushion of soft material. Traditional etrog boxes are usually in the shape of the fruit itself. Early etrog boxes were adapted from silver sugar bowls, soap dishes and other silver containers. In the late

19th century many tourists brought back olivewood etrog boxes from the Holy Land. Today, most etrog containers are silver, pewter, ceramic, or olivewood. Many families allow the etrog to wither and save it in the etrog box, using it as a ritual spice during the weekly *havdalah* (“separation”) ceremony marking the end of the Sabbath. The lulav is usually carried to services in a lulav carrier made of plastic, wood or velvet, which includes the blessing over the etrog and lulav on or in it. □

LULAV AND ETROG ON ANCIENT JUDAEAN COINS

*FROM THE HANDBOOK OF BIBLICAL
NUMISMATICS BY MEL WACKS*

There are three sizes of larger bronze coins, minted in the fourth year of the First Revolt, presumably when the supply of silver was running low. The smallest does not have a denomination indicated, but is usually referred to as an Eighth (Shekel?). It is assumed that all of these denominations are fractions of a shekel. Like the silver coins, a chalice is featured, along with symbols of the harvest festival of Succoth - lulav (bunch of branches) and etrog (lime-like fruit). The date and inscription “For the Redemption of Zion” are inscribed. The medium bronze has the same inscriptions, with the denomination “Reva” (Quarter) indicated; a large etrog is depicted on the obverse, and two lulav are shown on the reverse. The largest bronze coins are inscribed “Chatzi” (Half); again the lulav and etrog are pictured

on one side, with a palm tree and baskets on the reverse.



Ancient Judaeen coin featuring lulav and etrogs was pictured on Israel 5 agorot, 19.5 mm, aluminum-bronze, issued from 1985-2007.

Continued



*First Revolt [eighth Shekel?], Year 4
(69/70 CE), 20 mm.*

*First Revolt quarter [shekel], Year 4
(69-70 CE), 22 mm.*



First Revolt half [shekel], Year 4 (69-70 CE), 25 mm.

LULAV AND ETROG ON BAR KOCHBA'S COINS



Bar Kochba, silver sela, Year 2 (133/134 CE), 25 mm.

The overstruck silver tetradrachms (called "sela" in the Mishnah) are among the most religiously significant coins issued by the ancient Jews, since the Holy of Holies of the Jerusalem Temple is depicted, along with the Ark - that had held the two tablets of the Ten Commandments in Solomon's time. "Jerusalem" was inscribed around the Temple. Beginning in the second year and continuing into the final year, a star appeared above the Temple on many coins, likely alluding to Bar Kochba's nickname "Son of the Star."

Agricultural symbols associated with the harvest festival of Succoth - lulav and etrog - appear on the reverse, surrounded by a Hebrew inscription: "Year One of the Redemption of Israel," "Year Two of the Freedom of Israel," or "For the Freedom of Jerusalem," respectively in the three years of the revolt. In a letter from Bar Kochba, discovered in the late 1950s, the Jewish leader orders Judah Ben Manasseh to supply him with lulav for his army so that they could celebrate the festival even though they were in the midst of major battles. □

Continued



Bar Kochba, silver sela, Year 3 (134/135 CE), 25 mm. show this: Bar Kokhba Letter: "Shimon to Yehudah, son of Menasheh, at Qiryat Arabayyah- I have delivered to you two donkeys (in order) that you dispatch along with them two men to Yehonathan, son of Ba'yan, and to Mesabalah (in order) that they pack up and deliver to the camp, to you, palm branches and citrons. And you are to send additional persons from your place and let them bring you myrtle branches and willows. And prepare them, and deliver them to the camp, because the population is large. Fare well!"

Photo by Ardon Bar Hama.



Israel State Medal, Bar Kochba, Judean Caves Expedition, 59 mm Bronze, 1960. Obverse features wrapped packet of Bar Kochba letters.

ETROGS ON FANTASY COINS

These two interesting “fantasy coins” were included in the October 2017 auction conducted by Historama.



Base metal “Jewish War” fantasy coin, depicting 7-branched palm tree w/2 bunches of dates & legend; reverse: semi-high-relief etrog w/o legend; 6.65g, 25.5mm.



Base metal “Jewish War” fantasy coin, depicting 7-branched palm tree w/2 bunches of dates and legend; reverse: high-relief etrog and legend; 11.35g, 22.5mm.

These fantasy coins were likely modeled after genuine bronze coins of the First Revolt (69/70 CE), that feature etrogs and a palm tree (see previous article). □

JUDAEA CAPTA REDUX

By Don Roebuck

The French and Indian War - the Seven Years war as fought in North America - began in 1754, two years before the outbreak of hostilities in Europe, with a couple of encounters between French forces that were constructing defences in the Ohio country and, on the British side, 400 Virginia militiamen, under the command of George Washington, who had been sent to drive them out.

In the first of these encounters, in May 1754, the Virginiana ambushed an advance party of the French, but in the second, in July, the Virginians were surrounded and were allowed to go on the condition that they leave the Ohio country immediately.

From a strategic point of view, the two most important British victories in this war were the capture of Louisbourg, which controlled the approaches to the St. Lawrence, in the summer of 1758, and the capture of the city of Quebec, the capital of New France, in the battle of the Plains of Abraham (named after an early settler, Abraham Martin, d. 1664), in September 1759. But the French held out at Montreal

for almost another year, until, with three British armies converging on the city, the governor, the Marquis de Vaudreuil, surrendered to British general Jeffrey Amherot on September 8th, 1760.

The Society for Promoting Arts and commerce (now the Royal Society of Arts), in London, produced two medals to commemorate this victory.

One (Fig.1) says "The Conquest of Canada Completed" on the obverse and "Montreal Taken MDCCLX" on the reverse. (The obverse design also includes a laurel wreath around the name "Amherst".) The other (Fig. 2) says "Canada Subdued MDCCLX" on the reverse.

And on both of these medals the design on the reverse features a dejected-looking woman, sitting, with her chin resting on the heel of her left hand and her left arm resting on her left leg, under a pine tree.

Unless some other explanation can be found, it seems that we have here a reuse of the Judaea Capta "weeping woman" motif, some 1,690 years after Titus's capture of Jerusalem.

Continued



Figure 1. CONQUEST OF CANADA COMPLETED. AR 40.6mm, Saint Lawrence River at rest under laureate triumph to Amherst, with beaver, French arms in exergue. Reverse: captive Montreal under pine with eagle and French armorial trophy. Commemorating the victory of the British over the French and their native allies in the North American theatre of the Seven Years' War (The French and Indian War) specifically, the fall of Montreal in September of 1760. The outcome of this was one of the most significant developments in a century of Anglo-French conflict: the 'Conquest of Canada' and further expansion of the British Empire. Hammer price \$4,500 on May 23, 2006. Description courtesy of Geoffrey Bell Auctions; pictures from www.stacksarchive.com.



Figure 2. CANADA SUBDUED. Obverse of this rare medal depicts a bust of George II, facing to the left, wearing a laurel crown on his curly head. The legend simply reads, “George II, King”. Reverse displays an unknown woman, weeping under a coniferous tree. To her left a beaver sits. The reverse legend states, “Canada subdued” and the exergue, “1760. Society for Promoting Arts and Commerce”. On some medals “William Pitt Administring [sic]” is visible on the edges. The obverse and reverse text read as follows: George II King | and | Canada Subdued; MDCCLX | S P A C; William Pitt Administring . Text and pictures from www.coins.com.



Figure 3. JUDAEA CAPTA. Sestertius issued by Emperor Vespasian in 71 C.E. A coin like this was evidently the model for the Conquest of Canada Completed and Canada Subdued medals. ☐

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NEW ISSUE!

ADAM AND EVE COIN

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LEGAL TENDER ISSUED BY THE BANK OF ISRAEL



The obverse of each coin includes the Face Value, Israel state emblem, "Israel" in English, Hebrew and Arabic, mint year and mint mark, inscription "Adam and Eve" in the three official languages of Israel, and small fig leaves. Design by Yossi Lemel.

Continued

The Bible relates how God created Adam and placed him in the Garden of Eden - the Garden of Delight - the best place on earth, where pleasant trees and fruits were in abundance and there was no need to work hard. *"And God said, It is not good for Man to be alone.... (Genesis 2:18). "God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man....and He took from one of his ribs and He made a woman and brought her to the Man."(Genesis 2:21-22).* Adam called his wife Eve and the couple lived happily together.

However, the Garden of Eden

utopia was not to last long. The one limitation to their freedom was not to eat from the alluring fruit of the Tree of Knowledge of good and evil but they could not resist the temptation. The sly serpent tempted Eve into tasting the forbidden fruit and she, in turn, tempted Adam. Thus, the most significant sin of mankind was committed by the first couple created. As a result, Genesis 3:7 says, *"Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized that they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves."*



The common reverse features an artistic representation of a fig leaf, incorporating the outline of a man and woman representing Adam and Eve

Continued

Metal	Face Value (I.S.)	Mint Mark	Diameter (mm)	Weight (gm)	Quantity
Gold/917 22k, Proof	NIS 10	“מ” (Mem)	30.0	16.96	555
Silver/999 Proof	NIS 2	“מ” (Mem)	38.7	31.1	2,800
Silver/925 Prooflike	NIS 1	Star of David	30	14.4	1,800
Gold/999, Proof	NIS 1	“מ” (Mem)	13.92	1.244	5,000

The Adam and Eve coins are not the first Judaic coins to feature a leaf. Bronze prutahs were issued in the second and third years of the First Revolt. They feature an amphora and a grape vine leaf; around the leaf is the Hebrew inscription “The Deliverance of Zion.”



First Revolt prutah, Year 2 (67/68 CE)

Sources: Israel Coins and Medals Corporation, and The Handbook of Biblical Numismatics. ☒

500 YEARS OF ADAM AND EVE MEDALS (AND A COIN)



*1536, Hans Reinhart the Elder,
Gilt silver, 2 5/8 in. (6.7 cm.)*



After 1536, copied after Hans Reinhart, 24.99 gm.



1830, two medals from The Thomason Medallion Bible series, struck in gilt copper and white metal, 73 mm. Pictures courtesy of www.medalcollectors.org/Guides/TMB/TMB.html.

Continued



1932, Karl Goetz, reverse of Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, centennial of death, struck in silver and bronze, 36 mm.



1951, Albert Wein, Society of Medalists, bronze, 73 mm.



1965, Dora de Pédery Hunt, bronze, 70 mm. From the collection of Esther Wacks.



Unknown date, Franklin Mint, Bronze, 44 mm., 46.6 gm.



1988, Vatican 20 Lire coin,
aluminum-bronze,
21 mm., 3.6 gm.



1989, Marika Somogyi,
Brookgreen Gardens, copper,
82 mm. x 75 mm.



1993, Karen Worth, Society
of Medalists, bronze, 73 mm.



2015, Aharon Shevo, Holy Land
Mint, 1 troy oz., .999 fine silver,
38.7 mm.

MAXIMILIAN KOLBE

*“THE PATRON SAINT OF OUR
DIFFICULT CENTURY”*



Silver toned base medal, 3/4 inch.

Maximilian Kolbe (January 8, 1894–August 14, 1941), born as Rajmund Kolbe, was a Polish Conventual Franciscan friar who volunteered to die in place of a stranger in the Nazi concentration camp of Auschwitz in Poland.



1997, commemorates the 46th International Eucharistic Congress in Warsaw Wroclaw, designed by Anna Beata Wątróbska-Wdowiarska. Issued by Museum of Medallion Art in Warsaw, struck by the State Mint, Warsaw. Silver-plated, 70 mm., 128 gm.

Continued

Continued

He was canonized by the Catholic Church as Saint Maximilian Kolbe on October 10, 1982 by Pope John Paul II, and declared a martyr of charity. He is the patron saint of drug addicts, political prisoners, families, journalists, prisoners, and the pro-life movement. Pope John Paul II declared him the “The Patron Saint of Our Difficult Century.”

During the Second World War, in the friary, Kolbe provided shelter to refugees from Greater Poland, including 2,000 Jews whom he hid from Nazi persecution in his friary in Niepokalanów. He was also active as a radio amateur, with Polish call letters SP3RN, vilifying Nazi activities

On February 17, 1941, Kolbe was arrested by the German Gestapo and imprisoned in the Pawiak prison,

and, on May 25, was transferred to Auschwitz I as prisoner #16670.

In July 1941, a man from Kolbe’s barracks had vanished, prompting SS-Hauptsturmführer Karl Fritzsche, the Lagerführer (i.e., the camp commander), to pick 10 men from the same barracks to be starved to death in Block 11 (notorious for torture), in order to deter further escape attempts. (The man who had disappeared was later found drowned in the camp latrine.) One of the selected men, Franciszek Gajowniczek, cried out, lamenting his family, and Kolbe volunteered to take his place.

During the time in the cell, he led the men in songs and prayer. After three weeks of dehydration and starvation, only Kolbe and three others were still alive. Finally, he was executed with an injection of carbolic acid.



1971, commemorates 30th anniversary of the death of Maximilian Kolbe, designed by the Polish sculptor and medal engraver, Franciszek Habdas. Bronze, 75 mm, 120 gm.

Continued

WHAT ABOUT ACCUSATIONS OF KOLBE'S ALLEGED ANTI-SEMITISM?

Daniel Schlaflly of St. Louis University writes:

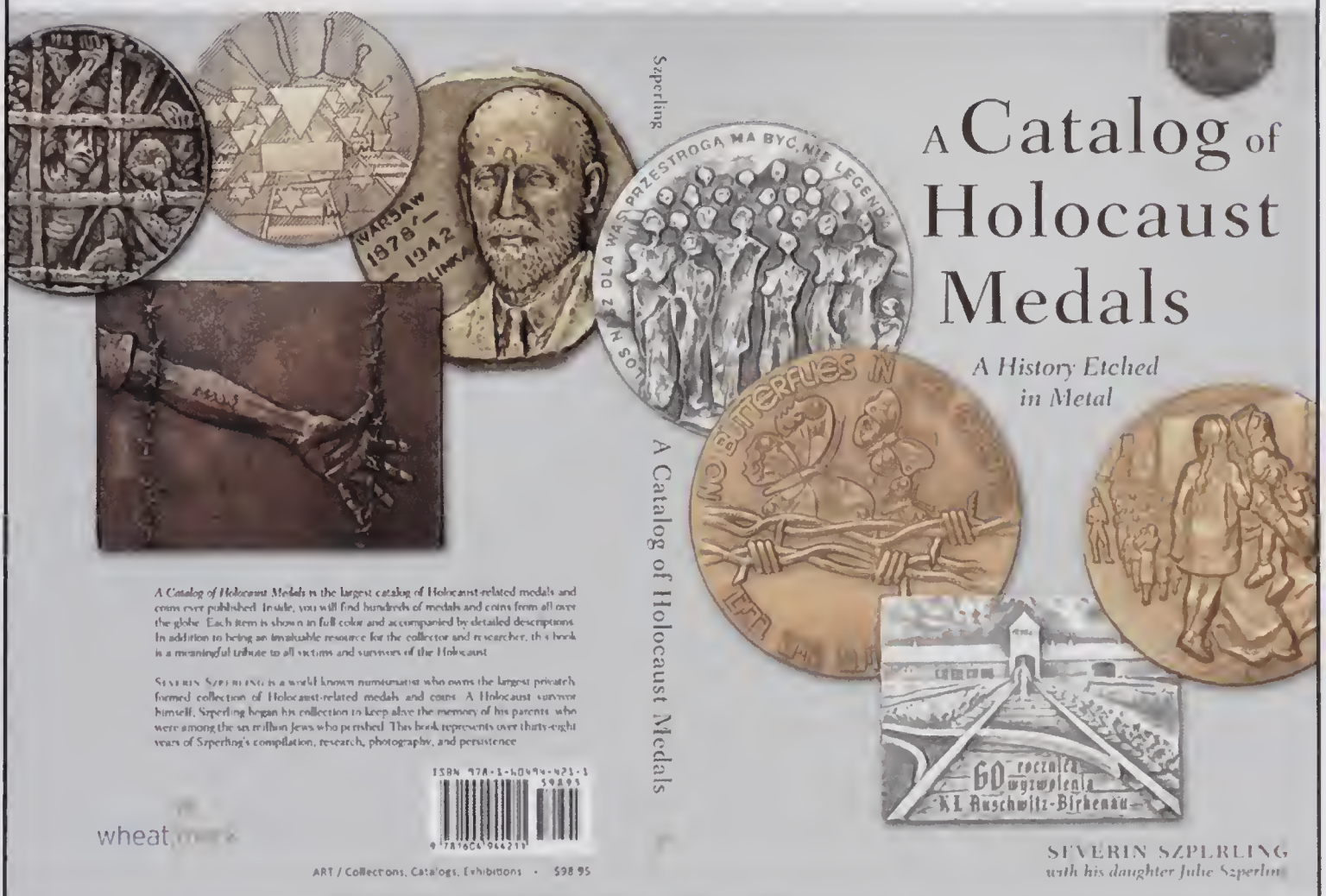
The real test of Father Kolbe's alleged anti-Semitism came at the outbreak of World War II when thousands of refugees were driven by the Nazis from western Poland. Numerous Polish witnesses have testified how Father Kolbe, himself just released from two-and-one-half months of German imprisonment and torture, sheltered all he could at his friary of Niepokalanow near Warsaw, without distinguishing between German or Pole, Christian or Jew (Polish estimates of the number of Jews cared for at Niepokalanow range from several hundred to more than two thousand). The refugees, Jews included, were given food, fuel, and clothing, and the sick were treated in the friary hospital. Kolbe frequently visited and consoled the refugees, without distinction of nationality or religion, even organizing a special New Year's party for the Jews to balance the Christmas celebration for the Christians. Of particular note is the testimony of Rosalis Kobla, who lived near the friary. "When Jews came to me asking for a piece of bread, I asked Father Maximilian if I could give it to them in good conscience, and he answered me, 'Yes, it is necessary to do this because all men are our brothers' " (Patavina, Seu Cracovien, pp. 389-390). Brother Juwentyn Mlodozieniec, who was at Niepokalanow at the time, quotes a certain Madame Zajac, a delegate of the Jewish refugees, as saying "in the name of all the Jews present here, we want to express our warm and sincere thanks to Father Maximilian and all his brothers" (I Knew Blessed Maximilian Kolbe, Washington, NJ: AMI Press, 1979, p. 53).

Thus, while Maximilian Kolbe shared some of the anti-Semitic stereotypes so widespread in prewar Poland, his image of the Jews, as of all who did not share his faith, was of people who were prisoners of error, not objects of hatred. Whatever theories he espoused, when he acted it was in a spirit of respect and charity, as his supreme sacrifice at Auschwitz showed. ▢

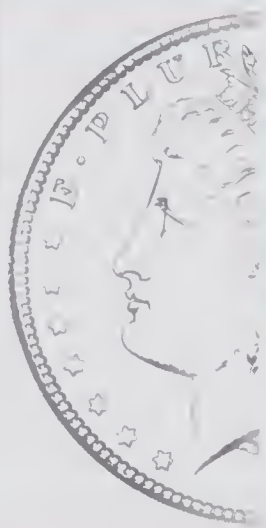
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A FANTASTIC VOYAGE

By Simcha Kuritzky, NLG

Back in 2013, I wrote in The Shekel about a set of gold fantasy coins struck on private commission at the Utrecht Mint to honor Israel in her fifteenth year of independence (starting in 1962/5722). These bore 50 and 100 shekel denominations, though not intended to circulate, and portrayed either King David or Solomon on the obverse and a surrounded by

symbols of the twelve tribes on the reverse. That article concentrated on Israel coins and medals issued prior to these fantasies and speculated on what influence they may have had on the fantasies' designer. This article instead speculates on the possible relationship between these fantasies and two series of Dutch medals.



Thanks to an Ira Goldberg auction, I discovered that the fantasy series actually contains four different designs, not just the two in Colin Bruce's Unusual World Coins. At the end of Israel's fifteenth year (1963/5723), two new 50 shekel fantasy coins (and maybe 100 shekel, but none have been found) were issued with modern Jewish leaders: Theodore Herzl and David Ben Gurion, each described on the fantasy

coins as founders of Israel. While the 22.5mm David and Solomon 50 shekel coins weighed a little more the 6 grams and were minted from .900 fine gold with the remainder in equal amounts of silver and copper, the Herzl and Ben Gurion coins weigh a little under 6 grams of .900 fine gold with the remainder only copper. Interestingly, the only 100 shekel I've examined, which is 29mm and portrays Solomon, is just over 12

Continued

Continued

grams of .960 fine gold, with the remainder copper, and not .900 fine like the 50 shekel.

Herzl is considered to be the grandfather of the State of Israel. He formed the Zionist Organization (ZO) in 1897 which eventually became the umbrella organization for all of the smaller, pre-existing Zionist groups; the Jewish National Fund, which purchased and developed land; and the Anglo-Palestine Bank, which raised funds. Older Zionist groups were religious in nature; the ZO was strictly political, based on the idea that Jews, as a people, deserved a nation of their own.

Herzl died in 1904, too early to see the fruits from the seeds he planted. The centennial of his birth in 1960 was the occasion for Israel to place his portrait on both her third silver coin of the independence anniversary series and her first gold coin, an I£20 which may have been the inspiration for this series of fantasy coins.

David Ben Gurion was a revolutionary in Czarist Russia who fled to the Land of Israel after the failed 1905 Rebellion. He tried to

organize a Jewish Brigade to defend Turkey against Russia in World War One, but the Turks expelled him and all Jews of Russian origin, and he joined the British Jewish Legion after the Balfour Declaration of November, 1917. From 1920-33, he served as the head of Histadrut, the Jewish national labor organization, a position he left to become the head of the Jewish Agency. In that capacity, he announced Israel's independence in 1948. Ben Gurion served as Israel's first Prime Minister until 1953, retiring but then serving again as Prime Minister from 1955-63. Israel law prohibits portraying living individuals even on medals, so no Israel state pieces portrayed Ben Gurion until after his death in 1973/5734.

While the Herzl piece is dated 1963/5723, the Ben Gurion doesn't have the room for a date. I assume it was issued at the same time as Herzl both because of historic symmetry and the metallic composition is similar. Both Herzl and Ben Gurion have been portrayed on other medals of Dutch origin, though they don't pretend to have a denomination.



Continued

What I assume to be the earliest set consists of two larger (26mm) gold medals with almost a quarter ounce of gold each. One shows Herzl's head left with his last name in Hebrew and first and last names in German, along with the dates of birth and death 1860-1904. The other shows Ben Gurion's head left with his full name in both Hebrew and English. Unlike the fantasies, Ben Gurion's last name in Hebrew is hyphenated. Like the 1962 fantasies, they are 90% gold, 5% silver, and 5% copper. They are just under 8 grams each.

The Hebrew on the Ben-Gurion medal's obverse looks Ashkenazi, with thicker horizontal strokes and thinner vertical ones, while Herzl's looks Sephardi with equal thickness and also a more square look. The reverse of both medals is the same, and uses the Sephardi style Hebrew. A seven-branched *menorah* or candelabra, similar but not identical to the one used on the

fantasies, dominates the reverse. On either side are two hexagrams or Magen David with the Hebrew date 5 Iyar [5]708 split between the two. Below is the same date in German 14.MAI 1948. At top is ISRAEL in Hebrew and English, while dividing the two legends are two long olive branches of 19 leaves each. Interestingly, the A in ISRAEL has a very long bar at the top while MAI and DAVID do not.

Which came first, the medals or the fantasies? All we can really say about the medals is that they were minted after 1948 and probably before Ben Gurion's passing in 1973. I think that the fantasies were inspired by the medals, though the only things they have in common are subject matter and the design of the *menorah* (which does not look like the one in Israel's coat of arms). Because these medals only commemorate Israel's birth and are considerably scarcer than the second series described below, I think these medals were produced around 1950-56.



Continued

Another set of medals may have come out only a few years later in 34mm 12.5 grams of 80% gold, 12% silver, and 8% copper. The same obverse of Herzl as found on the *menorah* medals is used on these medals. Both medals have the same reverse design, which, like the fantasies, show the signs of the 12 tribes of ancient Israel, though there's no *menorah*. While the artwork differs from those on the fantasies, the sequence is almost the same. Going from left to right top to bottom are Gad (3 tents), Judah (lion standing left), Reuben (3 mandrake flowers), Zebulun (sailing ship with oars), Issachar (Sun with eight stars), Asher (olive tree with three twigs growing out of a stump), Naftali (deer standing left), Dan (balance scales), Simon (towers of the town of Shekhem), Benjamin (wolf seated left), Joseph (sheaf of wheat), and Levi (3x4

grid representing the High Priest's breastplate). These are shown starting at 7 o'clock going counter-clockwise on the fantasies.

The reverse inscriptions differ between these two medals and the *menorah* medals. Both have Israel in Hebrew and English, but the first medal only gives Israel's independence day in German (Mai 14 above the tribes and 1948-1958 below), while the second gives the date in Hebrew above and German below the tribes.

I think it reasonable to assume the 1958 dated medal was produced in 1957-58, and the second gold medal in 1959. I have seen a 36mm 16 grams gold example of the second medal in a holder which describes it as a 4 ducat piece. This would make the 12 gram pieces 3 ducats, the 8 gram pieces 2 ducats, and the 6 gram fantasy coins 1½ ducats. Actual Dutch ducats were 3.5 grams of almost pure gold.



The reason for assigning a 1950s date for these medals is shown in these medals of similar design but 36mm and 15 to 16 grams of sterling silver. The same obverse

of Ben Gurion and Herzl is used on these medals, but the Herzl medal shows the dates 1860-1960 for the centennial of Herzl's birth. These founders were joined by Weizmann

Continued

Continued

with a well-executed $\frac{3}{4}$ right portrait and English legend THE FIRST PRESIDENT Dr. CHAIM WEIZMANN 1874-1952. Both letter A's have the long bar at top. and it's the only medal of the series with no Hebrew on the obverse.

Weizmann was a German-trained chemist in England who convinced Lord Balfour to issue his famous declaration and was elected ZO President in 1920, and he continued to serve until he resigned in 1934 to head the scientific organization that now bears his name. All three medals were contained in a set I purchased in a Capital Plastics holder along with three other Jewish medals of completely different design. These medals are also known in gold 26mm 8 grams and 36mm 16 grams.

I have also seen a Herzl gold medal with the 1860-1960 obverse paired with the *menorah* reverse, 26mm and 8 gram like the first set of medals. So the first series was issued at least until 1960.



I assume the medal set was issued before 1967, because I bought

separately from it a similar 36mm medal showing General Moshe Dayan, Defense Minister and hero of the 1967 Six-Day War. His uniformed $\frac{3}{4}$ left bust has a similar realism to the Weizmann bust. His name in Latin letters is abbreviated GEN. M. DAYAN on the left, while the right side has Moshe Dayan in the same Hebrew style of letters used on the Ben Gurion obverse. The reverse is identical to the other 12 tribes silver medals except for a tiny (0.900) and hallmark between the date and ISRAEL in Latin letters. It also weighs only 14 grams but, despite the hallmark, is actually made of sterling .925 silver. This medal also exists in gold.



The latest dated medal I could find commemorates Israel's twentieth anniversary in 1968. It pairs a revised 1960 Herzl with realistic hair obverse with a new reverse: Israel's 1967 cease-fire boundaries superimposed on a menorah with featureless arms and an octagonal base similar to Israel's coat of arms. The inscription in Hebrew and English is Israel 1948 1968.

Continued

Anyone collecting Judaica will come across these sets of medals and fantasies every now and then. Unfortunately, only a couple of them are documented, and the Utrecht Mint didn't keep their records from the 1960s. The similarity of lettering and design

implies these came from the same source, but until someone finds contemporary ads or articles, we can only speculate on when the medals were first issued and for how long they were minted and marketed, and by whom. ▢

MEDAL CAUSES DIPLOMATIC RIFT

At the opening of UNESCO's 39th General Conference in Paris, the Emirati delegation had placed a box containing a silver medal on the desk of each foreign delegation in honor of the UAE having sponsored the renovation of the conference hall. No box, however, was placed on Shama-Hacohen's desk.

Shama-Hacohen remarked indignantly: "Even the inauguration of this very hall was contaminated with the poison of politicization, as the donor state handed out to all member missions a greeting letter and a medal memorabilia: all member missions, aside from one — Israel," the Israeli envoy said Friday. "How petty, how primitive, how pathetic."

Many foreign diplomats stationed

at UNESCO gave Shama-Hacohen their medals — which bore a portrait of Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the deputy ruler of Dubai and the country's finance minister of the UAE — in protest of the UAE's move, the Israeli envoy said.

"My initial instinct was to put it to good use as a doorstop," he said.

"However, after giving it some more thought, I decided to donate them to the Syrian refugees who are wandering the cold streets of Paris. These

refugees include infants and children, who escaped the atrocities of the Syrian regime and the chemical attacks of that member of the Arab Group against its own women, children and innocent civilians." ▢



DANIEL GUGGENHEIM MEDAL

*THE GREATEST HONOR THAT CAN BE
PRESENTED FOR A LIFETIME OF WORK
IN THE AERONAUTICAL FIELD.*

Compiled by Mel Wacks



Obverse: the Ryan "Spirit of St. Louis," hot air balloon, and nose of airship over sun burst and clouds depicted in relief; raised text on outer ring surrounding relief. Minted by Medallie Art Company.



Reverse (uninscribed): three stylized bird wings surrounding circular text. With sculptor's initials "TSS" (Theodore Spicer-Simson, 1871-1959).

In March 1928, Harry F. Guggenheim, President of the Daniel Guggenheim Fund for the Promotion of Aeronautics, presented to the Medal Fund, \$15,000, "the income from which is to be used for the purpose of awarding, from time to time, medals to be known as 'The Daniel Guggenheim Medal,' in recognition of notable achievements in the advancement of aeronautics, in

accordance with the provisions of the by-laws of that corporation."

The Daniel Guggenheim Medal was created as an international award for the purpose of honoring suitable persons, and it is also a commemoration of the support given by Daniel Guggenheim to the advancement of aeronautics through donations for the support of schools of aeronautics and for

the encouragement of civil aviation. While it has been impossible in the short life of the Medal Board to include every aeronautical pioneer worthy of recognition in the list of Medalists, this list spans the entire history of practical aviation development. The Medal, very properly, is regarded by many as the greatest honor that can be presented for a lifetime of work in the aeronautical field.

The first winner was Orville Wright (1929), for the design and construction, with his brother, of the first successful engine-propelled airplane. Other notable awardees were William Edward Boeing (1934), for successful pioneering and achievement in aircraft manufacturing and air transport, and James “Jimmy” Doolittle (1942), for notable achievements in the advancement of both the art and the science of aeronautics. ▢

THE GUGGENHEIM FAMILY



13TH & 15TH Streets Passenger Railway Company of Philadelphia Stock Certificate, 1894, endorsed by Meyer Guggenheim. Source: www.tschoepe.de.

Meyer Guggenheim (1828-1905) was born in Switzerland to a traditional Ashkenazi Jewish family. At 19, he set out on his own and journeyed to the United States. After working in various shops in Philadelphia, Guggenheim opened

up his own company, importing Swiss embroidery. Business went well, and he soon searched for new opportunities. In 1881, Guggenheim invested \$5,000 in two Colorado silver mines, and quickly realized their incredible potential. He sold all

his other ventures and put all of his money into mining and smelting. With the help of his seven sons, Guggenheim quickly expanded across the US. By 1901, the family controlled the largest metal-processing plants in the US, and also owned mines in Mexico, Bolivia, Chile, and the Congo.

After the elder Guggenheim's passing, his son Daniel Guggenheim (1856-1930) took over the business. By 1918, he raised the family fortune to as much as \$300 million, making them among the wealthiest people in the world, as well as among the most generous philanthropists. Daniel's son was a World War I pilot, inspiring Daniel to invest considerably in aviation technology. To this day, the most prestigious prize in aeronautics is the Daniel Guggenheim Medal. Another son, Solomon Guggenheim (1861-1949), was a patron of the arts and an avid collector. He established New York's world-famous Guggenheim Museum.



Bas relief at entrance to the Guggenheim Museum, New York. Designed by Jyoti Srivastava. Photo courtesy of the sculptor.

Benjamin Guggenheim (1865-1912) worked for the family business out of Paris, and in 1912 he boarded the Titanic to head back home. When the iceberg hit, he was offered a place among the first women being evacuated, but rejected, saying “No woman shall remain unsaved because I was a coward.” One survivor reported that “after having helped the rescue of women and children, [he] got dressed, a rose at his buttonhole, to die.” His body was never recovered.



Titanic medal (reverse), issued by the Jewish-American Hall of Fame in 1998. Sculpted by Alex Shagin. Photo courtesy of Mel Wacks.

Benjamin's daughter, Marguerite “Peggy” Guggenheim (1898 –1979), settled in Venice in 1949 and established the Peggy Guggenheim Collection, a modern art museum that is one of the city's most visited attractions. ▢

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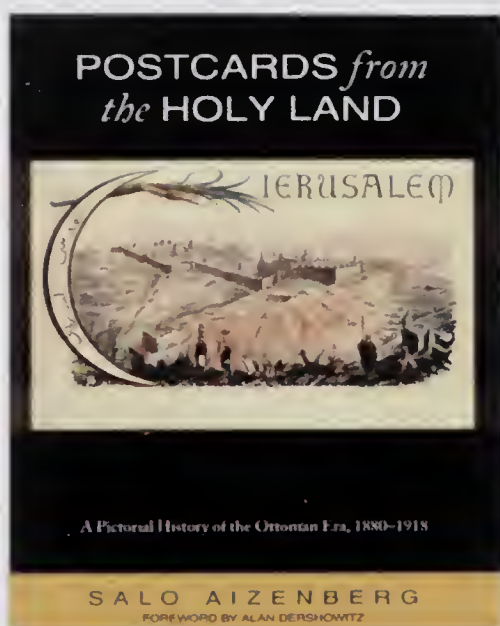
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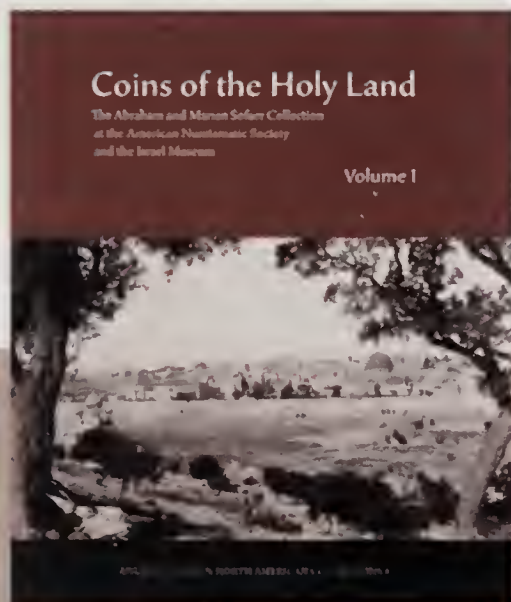
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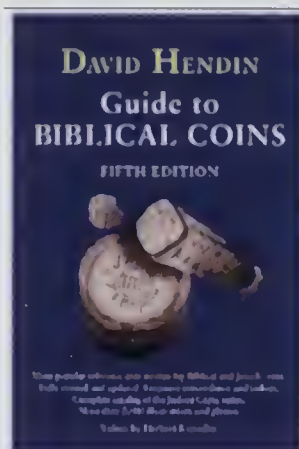
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The book was written by Ya'akov Meshorer with Gabriela Bijovsky and Wolfgang Fischer-Bossert, and edited by David Hendin and Andrew Meadows.

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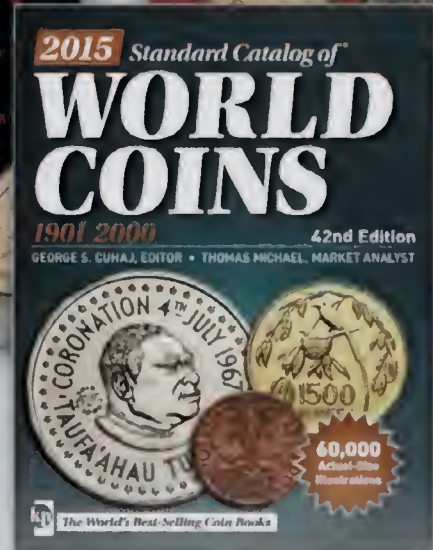
The Israeli shekel is currently the world's 2nd-strongest currency, according to a new report by the German global banking and financial services company Deutsche Bank. The report ranked China's yuan as the world's strongest currency.

Deutsche Bank's strategic foreign currency analyst Dr. Gautam Kalani reported that during the past 12 months, the shekel has appreciated 6.1 percent against the currencies of Israel's main trading partners, such as the US dollar, the British pound, the euro and the yen.

A nearly nonexistent inflation rate and low unemployment have

helped propel Israel to the No. 3 spot on a list of the world's most stable and promising economies for 2016 published by the *Bloomberg* financial news agency in April.

Israel's economy continues to perform well by international standards. In January, Israel cracked the top 10 on the 2017 Bloomberg Innovation Index, which rates the level of innovation in a nation's economy by scoring its spending on research and development and the number of publicly traded high-tech companies. □



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IVDAEA CAPTA type Orichalcum sesterlius.
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AR sela. Year 1.
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